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Mr. YAKUB HASAN:—"Do the Government intend to constitute a Board of Communications?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"They are considering the proposal."

Basis underlying the allotment of petrol-tax to the various districts.

*320 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state the basis on which the petrol-tax which makes the Road Development Fund is allotted to various districts?

A.—The subventions received by this Government from the Central Road Development Fund are distributed as grants to district boards for such Capital Works on trunk roads as may be approved by the Government of India. The allotment is made with reference to the merits of individual works and not with reference to the districts in which they are carried out.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—"May I know whether the Government examine the requirements of each district before making allotments from this fund to the different districts?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"All the schemes submitted will be duly considered."

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—"May I know whether the Government have considered the desirability of fixing a basis for distributing amounts from this fund to all the districts?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"As was stated yesterday, the Government do consider the question of distributing to all districts, according to the urgency of the works."

Mr. M. S. SRESHTA:—"Will the Government be pleased to supply a list of the schemes which have been submitted for consideration?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"I have no objection to give the information to the hon. Gentleman."

Direct recruitment of District Board Engineers with special reference to communal representation.

*321 *Q.*—Rao Bahadur A. T. PANNIRSELVAM: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether, with a view to the direct recruitment of District Board Engineers, the Government called for the recommendations from the Madras Services Commission;

(*b*) whether the Services Commission were asked to have regard to the claims of the various communities in making their recommendations for the purpose;

(*c*) the names of the persons recommended by the Commission and the communities to which they belong;

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(*d*) how many of these have so far been appointed as District Board Engineers; and

(*e*) whether any Indian Christian has been so far directly appointed as District Board Engineer?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The rules relating to the District Board Engineering Service provide for the due representation of the various communities so far as suitable candidates are available. The Commission had to make the selection in accordance with the rules.

(*c*) The Government do not propose to publish the names of the candidates selected by the Commission.

(*d*) Six.

(*e*) One Indian Christian candidate has been appointed.

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I ask why the Government will not publish the names of the candidates selected by the Commission?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"It is generally considered to be confidential."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"With regard to the answer to clause (*e*), may I know whether this Indian Christian gentleman appointed directly by the Government was not one of those recommended by the Commission?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"Certainly he was one of those recommended."

Mr. M. S. SRESHTA:—"May I know when the recommendation was received from the Madras Services Commission and how many were recommended?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"I am afraid I must ask for notice. The recommendation was received about a year or two ago."

Mr. YAKUB HASAN:—"Among the six District Board Engineers appointed, was there a Mussalman?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"Yes."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—"May I know whether the Indian Christian gentleman whose name is in the list of people recommended was one whose services were terminated by the District Board of Coimbatore?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"I want notice."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—"Will the Government be pleased to enquire into the matter?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"All the materials available have been placed before the Services Commission, and I do not think any useful purpose will be served by enquiring now."